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Message Text

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14
ORIGIN PM-03

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DOD/ISA/NESA-COL WALLACE (SUBS)
EUR/SE:JHMORTON
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O 252154Z MAY 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128869

LIMDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, CY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF GUADALCANAL (AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP) TO CYPRUS

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN PAST FEW WEEKS BY CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMSIXTHFLT TO ARRANGE PORT VISITS FOR TF 61 SHIPS IN GREEK AND TURKISH PORTS OR ANCHORAGES. MANY TF 61 SHIPS, INCLUDING GUADALCANAL HAVE NOW MAINTAINED READINESS FOR FLUID DRIVE OPERATIONS WITHOUT PORT VISITS SINCE MARCH 23. IT IS CLEAR GREEKS WILL NOT APPROVE FURTHER PORT VISITS UNTIL BASE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SETTLED. USDAO ANKARA IS WORKING ON VISITS FOR SEVERAL OTHER SHIPS OF TF 61, BUT PROSPECTS FOR VISIT BY GUADALCANAL ARE UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND HIGH VISIBILITY OF SHIP. ACCORDING DOD, SHIP WOULD PUT ASHORE SOME 750 TO 1000 CREW AND TROOPS FOR UP TO 6-DAY VISIT, WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF AND WHEN APPROVAL GRANTED.

2. DOD HAS NOTED THAT ONLY OTHER OPTION NOT YET EXPLORED
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IS CYPRUS, SPECIFICALLY AKROTIRI IN SBA. ACCORDING DOD,

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NAVEUR HAS INFORMALLY SOUNDED OUT FCO AT DESK LEVEL, WHO
INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FORMAL PORT VISIT REQUEST.

3. BEFORE STATE OR DOD ELEMENTS PROCEED WITH FORMAL
REQUEST, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. WHILE WE ARE
SYMPATHETIC TO PROBLEMS ENGENDERED BY UNUSUALLY LONG
TIME GUADALCANAL HAS BEEN ON STATION, WE CLEARLY MUST
BE SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL IMPACT SUCH VISIT WOULD HAVE
IN CYPRUS. SISCO

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